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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, CEYLON.

ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNOR IN REPLY TO HIS
EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH OF OCTOBER 18, 1893.

*To His Excellency the President of the Legislative Council, SIR ARTHUR ELIBANK
HAVELOCK, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and
Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon, with the
Dependencies thereof.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE Legislative Council desire to offer a cordial welcome to Your Excellency on your return after a brief interval of rest in England.

2. They unite with Your Excellency in deeply regretting the loss which the Colony and the Council have sustained by the death of Colonel Clarke.

3. It is gratifying to them to have Your Excellency's assurance that the prosperity of the Island continues unchecked, and that the efforts made by the Government to abate the prevalence of serious crime have led to the reduction of the average number of prisoners in the jails of the Island. But they are not yet in a position to judge whether the recent re-organisation of the Police has contributed in any manner towards the attainment of this result.

4. The benefits to be attained by technical education are of such vast importance to the public that it is a matter for sincere congratulation that Your Excellency has succeeded in taking the first steps necessary to add to our Educational System the training of youths in artistic and mechanical industries.

5. The increased facilities of postal communication with India will undoubtedly confer a great boon on the country, and the Council will be prepared to provide the cost of the necessary addition to Establishments. They think it desirable that still further reductions should be made in the inland telegraph rates, and they will be glad to see an early realisation of Your Excellency's hope in this direction.

6. The Council share Your Excellency's opinion with regard to the success which has so far attended the work of the Special Commissioner at Chicago. They trust that one of its permanent results may be that the products of this country, especially tea, will secure a firm hold of the American market.

7. The Council are pleased to learn that the General Revenue shows a satisfactory increase. They will favourably consider such facts and figures as may be placed before them in justification of the proposed Railway Extension to Mátara. They hope that every effort will be made to attract to the existing lines, more largely than hitherto, the products of the low-country.

8. The recent determination of the Central Irrigation Board to endeavour to recover the capital expended on Irrigation Works, or to secure a direct return equal to a fair amount of interest on that capital, and to avoid undertaking any work which cannot be shown to be fairly remunerative, meets with the entire approval of this Council.

9. The proposed restoration of the Giant's Tank has frequently been brought to the attention of the Government of this country in time past. If all the requirements of the law in respect of the repayment of the cost of the work and its maintenance have been fulfilled, and the estimates are found to warrant the undertaking, the Council will be prepared to consider the best mode of providing the funds. They earnestly hope that no vote will be proposed to them until all materials essential for a consideration of the subject have been placed before them in due time, and full opportunity given for a complete study of the merits of the scheme. Some Members of Council consider that money for the construction of such works ought to be provided by borrowing instead of by appropriating from General Revenue.

10. The Council, having as firm a faith as Your Excellency in the future of Colombo, await with deep interest the papers relating to the improvement of its Harbour, and when they are submitted to them they will give to this important proposal the full attention it deserves.

11. The Estimates for 1894 and the Bills referred to in Your Excellency's Address, together with any others that may be brought forward this Session, will receive the careful consideration of this Council. The Council assure Your Excellency that their hearty co-operation and support may be fully counted upon in all that concerns the welfare of the Island.

By order of the Council,

Legislative Council Chamber,
Colombo, October 25, 1893.

H. L. CRAWFORD,
Clerk to the Council.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

I THANK you for your kind welcome on my return from leave of absence, and I accept with satisfaction the assurance you give me of your co-operation and support.
